THE
Dan Smoot Report

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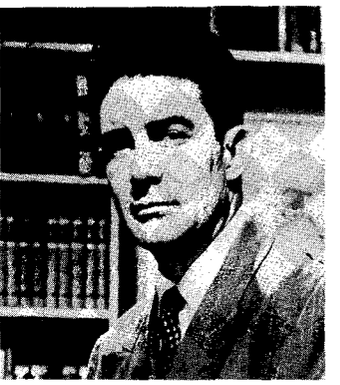

DAN SMOOT

THE GREAT SOCIETY'S RED GUARDS

On October 16, 1940, all American men within specified age groups registered for the first peacetime draft in American history. We were told that the draft would keep us out of war. The next year, we went to war.

In 1948, Congress enacted the Universal Military Training and Service Act, which did not really require universal military training, but extended the Selective Service Act of 1940 with modifications. The 1948 law was also intended to keep us out of war. In 1950, we went to war.

In June, 1951, Congress approved the principle of universal military training, and created a National Security Training Commission to prepare a plan. On March 5, 1952, the House defeated a bill to authorize a permanent military service plan based on the Commission's report.

The 1948 draft law was amended and extended to 1955. In 1955, Congress amended the law to authorize Eisenhower's military service plan, which established a reserve of volunteers, and continued the compulsory draft to encourage volunteering. A volunteer for the reserves was given several years' active duty or several months' training in the service of his choice, then placed in active or ready reserve for the remainder of his 6-to 8-year obligation — during which time he was subject to active duty at the pleasure of the President. A boy who did not volunteer for the reserve could be drafted for two years in any branch of the Armed Forces. This plan (slightly modified by the Uniform Service Obligation Law of 1963) is still in existence.

The selective-service-plus-voluntary-reserve system will expire June 30, 1967, unless Congress again extends the 1948 draft law that authorizes it.

The Propaganda

When Congress approved the Eisenhower plan in 1955, the public was assured that it was good, fair, effective. In 1966, political and intellectual leaders (preparing the public to accept

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months; first class, $12.50 a year; airmail, $14.50. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

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something new in 1967) condemn the plan as inequitable, degrading, ineffective. Some imply that it is corrupt. Many insist that it must be radically changed — in the direction of "broadening" the concept of enforced "public service" for all young people.

On May 7, 1966, the first National Service Conference (held in New York City, attended by 30 persons representing universities, government agencies, students, and foundations) unanimously concluded that draft laws should be revised to give young Americans the option of serving in international agencies like UNICEF, working with leftwing private organizations like the American Friends Service Committee, joining the Peace Corps, or working in anti-poverty projects, as alternatives to being drafted into the armed forces.

Roger Rapoport, student from the University of Michigan, suggested that draftees be permitted to do "a two-year hitch in Alabama registering Negroes," or otherwise to work with "activist groups" like Students for a Democratic Society, as alternatives to military service. In making his point, he quoted a former Peace Corps official as saying:

"It certainly takes as much guts to face the hostile environment in Alabama and Mississippi as it does to face the hostile environment in Viet Nam and other areas."(1)

Participant Leon Bramson (teacher of sociology and anthropology at Swarthmore College) suggested that National Service draftees might be sent to teach in a village in Ghana or India, in an Appalachian coal town, or in a "big city Negro ghetto."(1)

Other participants suggested that draftees who do not wish military service might be used to develop "communal village living" projects in which all children — including babies — would be sent to government care centers and schools, thus freeing mothers for useful work.(1)

No conservative organization was represented at the first National Service Conference and no known conservative attended. It was, in short, a gathering of leftwingers. For example, the only student organization represented was the National Student Association, which was organized in 1947 by students who had previously helped establish the communist International Union of Students. The foundations represented were Ford, Alfred P. Sloane, and Carnegie Corporation — major financiers of a network of tax-exempt organizations which interlock with the Council on Foreign Relations to form the invisible government of the United States. Two leftwing Congressmen (Repesentatives William Ryan of New York, and Donald Fraser of Minnesota) were represented by their administrative assistants.

On May 11, President Johnson made a plea for "citizen soldiers," saying:

"We must revive the ancient ideal of citizen soldiers who answer their nation's call in time of peril. We need them on battlefronts where no guns are heard but where freedom is no less tested."(2)

On May 14, *The New York Times* said editorially:

"Nationally sound reform [of the selective service system] lies in the direction of universal national service, with limited options to serve either in the armed forces, the Peace Corps, the National Teachers Corps or a variety of domestic urban and rural missions. Leading educators have already endorsed such a plan. It is now up to the nation's educational, manpower and military leadership to evolve a blueprint for national debate and Congressional action."

On May 16, Representative Ryan put the *Times* editorial in the *Congressional Record*, expressing approval.

On May 18, Defense Secretary McNamara said:

"As matters stand, our present Selective Service System draws on only a minority of eligible young men.

"That is an inequity.

"It seems to me that we could move toward remedying that inequity by asking every young person in the U.S. to give one or two years of service to his country — whether in one of the military services, in the Peace Corps or in some other volunteer developmental work at home or abroad."(3)

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On May 19, Representative Ryan, noting that McNamara's proposal had "built upon" President Johnson's citizen-soldier "theme" of May 11, introduced a resolution requesting establishment of a Special Joint Committee to investigate the allocation of national manpower — in education, poverty, labor, conservation, and foreign affairs, as well as in the military services.

A comparable resolution was introduced in the Senate by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. Numerous Representatives and Senators joined Ryan and Nelson as co-sponsors of their resolutions. Other Representatives and Senators introduced similar resolutions and were joined by many colleagues. All harshly condemn the present law; all support the idea of *universal compulsory service*, with draftees to be given a choice between civilian and military service; all suggest the Peace Corps and anti-poverty projects as acceptable substitutes for military service; many would enlarge draftees' choices to include service in UN agencies or participation in activities of such leftwng private organizations as American Friends Service Committee; some would permit draftees to choose civil rights work as a substitute for military service.

On August 18, President Johnson said a commission was studying ways to overhaul the selective service system, trying to determine whether we can "establish a practical system of nonmilitary alternatives to the draft." The President promised that in 1967 he will "recommend to Congress a program to assist those who want to train for public service."[4]

Senator Frank Moss of Utah says:

"Some 2 million of our young people turn 18 years of age every year and become eligible for the draft . . . . Only a small percentage . . . are actually ever inducted and asked to give 2 years of their life in the service of their country. This is obviously unfair . . . .

"The time may have come in the history of our country, and in the history of the world, when we should ask each young person to devote 2 years of his life to his country in some capacity. It need not necessarily be in the military service. It could be in the Peace Corps, or in the National Service Corps. It could be in conservation work in our national forests or on our depleted national lands . . . . It might even be on our farms in helping to harvest crops we need for our expanding populations . . . ."[5]

Shades of the young "Red Guards" now roaming the face of China, pinch-hitting as harvesters of crops and workers in industry, while performing their primary role as assassins of Mao's enemies and public punishers of old men and women suspected of not idolizing Mao with prescribed communist zeal!

The Reality

Two million turning 18 each year will be forced into government service for 2 years, at a minimum cost to taxpayers of $10,000 a year each for training and maintenance, making a total cost of not less than 40 billion dollars a year to create the Great Society's counterpart of Mao's Red Guards.

Four million young people on the public payrolls, for no purpose except to get "training in public service," will mean an annual loss of four million man-years of productive effort by American youth.

The national service corpsmen would not provide us the kind of defense we need, even if all were militarily trained and permanently mobilized. We are now — and have been for several years — in desperate need of an anti-missile system to protect our homeland against the only kind of foreign attack possible: sudden assault with super-weapons that could kill millions. We have neglected building such a system because it is expensive. McNamara has elected to take the calculated risk of losing up to 50 million American lives in a surprise nuclear attack; and he has caused severe shortages of U.S. fighter planes and pilots in Vietnam, by not authorizing sufficient expansion of production and training facilities[6] — all to save money for activities more appealing to McNamara than first-line defense. Wasting another 40 billion dollars a year on national service will mean further neglect of vital defense.

We cannot successfully compete with communist nations in mass mobilization, because they outnumber us. Our security against the limitless

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hordes of China and Russia is in the unquestioned superiority of our technology and industrial production. We cannot maintain this superiority if we permit government to take our youth out of schools, universities, private industry — while handicapping industrial and technological progress with a crushing tax burden to support government payrolls for activities harmful to our nation.

When pleading for citizen-soldiers, President Johnson misrepresented an American tradition. Traditionally, America was defended by a small standing force of military professionals — who could train and direct a great army of citizen-soldiers rallied to the colors in time of war.

In the past, two oceans protected our shores and gave us time to mobilize against foreign threat. The only kind of attack against us that is now feasible is the kind that massive armies could not stop. Hence, any defense built on the idea of permanent, mass mobilization — including not only the national service corps being planned, but the existing selective service system — is a wasteful diversion of our resources into efforts that cannot protect our country.

The Remedy

A hallmark of all the tyrannies which have driven people to seek refuge and freedom in the United States is universal conscription comparable to the national service plan now being formulated for the United States.

Instead of expanding draft laws to create a national service corps, Congress should let the laws expire on June 30, 1967, and abolish conscription altogether. We do not need it.

If we concentrated on the kind of *homeland defense* we need, it could be manned by a relatively small group of professionals who could be hired in the open market for salaries attractive enough to compete with those offered by private industry, and who could be given the intensive, extensive training necessary for their duties.

What could we do about Vietnam if Congress let draft laws expire next June 30? We could do what General Curtis LeMay suggests: use our industrial and technological superiority (and not our ground troops) to destroy the communist enemy.[7]

SUGGESTION: Tell your U.S. Representative and your two Senators that you are opposed to all plans for a national service corps. Tell them that Congress should stop peacetime conscription by permitting the draft laws to expire next year. Distribute copies of this *Report*, in an effort to inform and arouse others.

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FOOTNOTES

(1) "A Profile of National Service," edited by Donald J. Eberly, Overseas Educational Service, 522 Fifth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10036, 60 pp. (one copy upon request); "Universal Indoctrination Via The Draft," by Elizabeth H. Osth, August 27-8, 1966, 4 pp. (Copy available by sending 10c to Miss Osth at P.O. Box 382, Berryville, Virginia.)

(2) *Congressional Record*, May 19, 1966, p. 10564

(3) "McNamara's New Design For World Peace And Security," *U.S. News & World Report*, May 30, 1966, pp. 90-5

(4) "Johnson Asks Young People to Recommend Changes in Draft," by Richard Reston, *The Los Angeles Times*, August 19, 1966, pp. 1, 27

(5) *Congressional Record*, May 25, 1966, pp. 10924-5

(6) "Severe Shortages Arise In Warplanes and Pilots," by Hanson W. Baldwin, *The Dallas Morning News*, October 9, 1966, p. A10

(7) "General LeMay Tells How To Win The War In Vietnam," *U.S. News & World Report*, October 10, 1966, pp. 36-43

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